

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 8 and 12-15 are amended and claim 21 is added. No new matter is added.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 7-10 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,512,510 to Maeda. Additionally, claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maeda. Finally, claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maeda in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 14 and 15 are amended to incorporate the feature of the strain sensors being formed on a surface of the sensor substrate opposite that of the stick member.

This structure is discussed in Applicant's Figs. 1, 2, 9A, 9B, 10 and 11 and page 10, lines 9-12, page 22, lines 7-13, and page 23, lines 8-11.

Maeda fails to teach, disclose or suggest such features. Maeda teaches a mounting member 12 in the form of a flat metal plate that receives control member 2 (stick). A separate flexible substrate 8 is bonded to the mounting member. Then, strain gauges 9a-d are mounted on the flexible substrate 8. Thus, the Maeda pointing device is constructed of multiple separate elements that result in both the stick and strain gauges being mounted on the same side of mounting member 12.

For the foregoing reasons, because Maeda fails to teach, disclose or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 14 and 15, these claims and claims dependent therefrom are neither anticipated by nor obvious from Maeda. The AAPA fails to overcome the deficiencies of Maeda. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: May 17, 2005

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